



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yasunau MIURA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1731

Application No.: 10/045,083

Examiner: J. Hoffmann

Filed: January 15, 2002

Docket No.: 111674

For: METHOD OF FABRICATING HONEYCOMB BODY

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the December 2, 2004 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 2-5 are pending in this application.

The Office Action rejects claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,952,079 to Andou et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,776,998 to Davidson et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,622,057 to Chyung et al., and optionally in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,731,036 to Hallier et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 4 sets forth a "method of fabricating at least a ceramic honeycomb body including a multiplicity of cells, the cells having wall thicknesses of 0.125 mm or less, comprising drying at least an extrusion-molded argillaceous honeycomb body by exposing the extrusion-molded argillaceous honeycomb body to a high-humidity ambience of not less than 70 % in humidity; and irradiating the extrusion-molded argillaceous honeycomb body with microwaves having a frequency of 1,000 to 10,000 MHz; wherein drying the extrusion-